

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 18320 221431Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-12 IO-14 EB-08 NRC-07 SOE-01
DOE-12 AID-05 /134 W
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8217
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 18320

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM MNUC IN
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR MATTERS

1. ACCORDING TO A SAMACHAR WIRE SERVICE DESPATCH,
PRIME MINISTER MORARJI DESAI TOLD THE RAJYA SABHA
DECEMBER 22 THAT INDIA WAS COMMITTED "NOT TO EXPLODE
ANY NUCLEAR DEVICE FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES OR MAKE ANY
NUCLEAR WEAPONS." DESAI, REPLYING TO QUESTIONS, REPORTEDLY
SAID THAT NUCLEAR RESEARCH COULD CONTINUE
WITHOUT EXPLOSIONS AND WAS INDEED GOING ON. REFERRING
TO THE U.S. SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR
TARAPUR, DESAI SAID
THERE HAD BEEN SOME PROBLEM AFTER THE 1974 EXPLOSION
BUT THE MATTER HAD BEEN SETTLED AND SUPPLY HAD BEEN
RESUMED. HE ADDED THAT A CONSIGNMENT WAS RECEIVED
RECENTLY.

2. COMMENTING ON U.S. LEGISLATION IN NUCLEAR AFFAIRS,
THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IF THERE WAS ANY CLAUSE
IN A BILL WHICH AFFECTED "OUR SELF-RESPECT IT WITT
NOT BE ACCEPTED BY US. BUT I HAVE NO CONTROL
OVER THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND I CANNOT
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PREVENT THEM FROM PASSING ANY LEGISLATION."
DESAI SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF THE SUPPLY OF
FUEL FOR TARAPUR WOULD MOST LIKELY FIGURE IN
HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. HE REPORTEDLY

AGREED THAT THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF TARAPUR
WOULD BE AFFECTED IF THE FUEL FROM THE U.S.

DID NOT ARRIVE IN TIME. REPLYING TO ANOTHER
QUESTION, DESAI SAID: "THERE IS NO PROJECT FOR
PRODUCING ENRICHED URANIUM. HOWEVER, PROJECTS ARE
IN HAND TO EVOLVE A SUITABLE TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE UP
THE LACK OF ENRICHED URANIUM. BUT THE OUTCOME OF
EXISTING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WILL
TAKE TIME."

3. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN A COMPLETE TEXT OF
THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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